

REMARKS

Rejections of all of the claims of 2 October 2008 under 35 §102 for lack of novelty as being anticipated by US 3 453 470 (Hammer) have been made by the Examiner, inter alia stating on page 5 of the Office Action, that Claim 1 of 2 October 2008 does not contain the limitation of the end part being integral with (not separated from) the spacer and furthermore does not contain the limitation that the radially projecting guide elements form an abutment for the end of the outer tube, thereby permitting the disclosure of Hammer to be readable on Claim 1 of 2 October 2008.

Remedy to these objections by the Examiner is proposed by a new main claim which significantly delimits the scope of protection from the prior art, particularly according to Hammer.

The new main claim emphasizes the distinguishing features of the invention which provide its surprising advantages over the prior art solution of Hammer. Support for the amendments in the new Claim 1 is to be found in the description paragraphs 0027 and 0029 and in Figs. 3 and 4.

One main difference between Hammer and the present invention is that the second end part of the spacer has a plurality of outwardly radially-projecting guide elements against which the end surface of the outer tube can make contact, in order to facilitate the assembly of the outer tube and the end cap when assembling the fluorescent lamp.

This difference has the effect, during the assembly, that the main tube having the spacer comprising the guide elements will center the main tube coaxially in the outer tube at the same time as a joining layer of insulating paste can be applied easily filling the gaps between the guide elements for joining the spacer with the outer tube. The lamp shown in *Hammer* has no automatic centering and requires careful insertion of the tubes in a more complex composite spacer assembly.

The spacer is now stated as being made in one piece entirely in low heat conducting material, and holding and centering the end of the main tube.

These distinguishing features make it extremely easy to correctly place and fix the component parts to each other in the assembly of the fluorescent lamp. We would maintain the arguments presented in the previous response regarding the non-obvious advantages of the present invention as now claims over the prior art according to Hammer.

In the event there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

No additional fees are believed to be due at this time beyond the 1 month extension fee. However, if necessary to effect a timely response the Commissioner is authorised to deduct the necessary fees from Deposit account No. 501249.

Respectfully submitted,

/Timothy Platt/

Timothy Platt
Registration No. 43,003

ALBIHNS AB
Box 5581
SE-114 85 STOCKHOLM, Sweden
tel +46 (0) 8 5988 7200
fax +46 (0) 8 5988 7300

Customer No. 26288

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